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Volume 12, Number 34

Serving New Jersey's African-American Community

May 29 - June 4, 1996

INSIDE:
API TRAVEL
SUPPLEMENT

THE ISLEY BROTHERS
CELEBRATES 40 YEARS
OF MUSIC

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NIJ BOLOS TRAINING GRANT

Page 8

NEWARK FIREMAN
ACQUITTED OF
DRUG CHARGES

NEWARK—Forty-three-year-old Eric Blanding was arrested on his way home on August 29, 1995 and charged with possession of drugs and the intent to distribute. Blanding, a 11-year fireman with the Newark Fire Department, was in his possession at the time, \$1,500 in cash and another individual—who was later co-defendant in the case—Anthony Houston was in his van.

According to Blanding's lawyer, Stanley Smith of Smith and Forbes in Plainfield, his client was on his way home when he was stopped by the police in the vicinity of Scudder Homes, which is two blocks from Blanding's residence.

A search was carried out and 41 decks of heroin were found in the vehicle along with Blanding's \$1,500 which he reported was his fireman's salary. Both men were arrested and charged with possession and

See FIREMAN ACQUITTED page 10

BRADLEY BACKS BILL
TO ENSURE HEALTH
INSURANCE IN NJ

WASHINGTON DC—Senator Bill Bradley (D-NJ) announced recently that the Kassabaum-Kennedy Health Insurance Reform bill that passed unanimously in the Senate will protect the effective health reforms that New Jersey initiated for small employers and individuals in 1993.

Senator Bradley negotiated with Senators Nancy Kassebaum (R-Kansas) and Ted Kennedy (D-Mass.) to prevent market segmentation in small employers and individual markets.

The changes secured by Bradley ensure that the Health Insurance Reform bill will not preempt state laws in a state, such as New Jersey, that has chosen different means than health plan purchasing cooperatives to achieve the end of guaranteed access to health care at a reasonable price.

JERSEY CITY KICKS
OFF DOWNTOWN
REVITALIZATION

JERSEY CITY—Jersey City Mayor Bret Schundler recently joined merchants and other city and Jersey City Economic Development Corporation officials at ceremonies marking the official start of construction on Phase II of the Newark Avenue blockfront facade improvement program. The project will consist of four counterparts: a parking lot, the building fronts will be steam cleaned and refurbished with new windows, awnings and other features. The parking lot will be cleaned up and fenced in and a gateway entrance will be installed.

Work on the five-block region of properties is expected to be completed in about three months. A total of 16 buildings in the area are slated for eventual improvement at an estimated cost of \$750,000 to \$800,000, funded partially by Community Development Block Grant funds and partially by Urban Enterprise Zone funds.

UNION COUNTY NOW
FINGERPRINTING
JUVENILES

ELIZABETH—Juvenile offenders in Union County will now be subjected to the same humiliating process of fingerprinting and mug shots as their adult counterparts. According to Assistant Prosecutor Deborah White of the Juvenile Justice Unit, not all juvenile offenders will be subjected to this process, only those 14 and older charged with serious crimes.

The program was launched by White with the permission of Superior Court Judge Robert J. Berman.

See FINGERPRINTING page 10

June is Black Music Month, celebrate with pride



CITY JEWELS

NEWARK PUB. LIB PERIODICALS ACQUISITION
5 WASHINGTON ST. PO BOX 630
NEWARK, NJ 07101

PRESIDENT CLINTON PROMISES TO 'MEN' AFFIRMATIVE ACTION

WASHINGTON—Inherent proposal by the Clinton administration, significant new limits were placed on affirmative action programs that had been giving minorities preferences for federal contracts.

According to sources this proposal arose from President Clinton's pledge to "mend not end" affirmative

action programs, after a landmark Supreme Court ruling a year ago making it harder for the government to set aside contracts for minority businesses.

While the plan stopped short of eliminating any entire federal program for minority firms, it does apply "significant new constraints," Associate

Attorney General John Schmidt said in unveiling details of the complicated proposal at a Justice Department news conference.

The proposal requires that government agencies use race-neutral alternatives as much as possible. The plan would disallow for at least two years—all programs that set contracts

aside for bidding exclusively by minorities.

It also would require federal agencies to use race-neutral outreach or other programs to increase minority participation in federal procurement. But benchmarks for each industry will be developed as a fallback.

Minority contracts currently con-

stitute six percent of total government purchases, but Schmidt said the proposal will not necessarily lead to a decrease. After a 60-day comment period, the administration will set final rules by the end of the year. After the new system has been in place for two years, Schmidt vowed a thorough review to consider future changes.

Beeper controversy looms over New Jersey



Senator Ron Rice

NEWARK—Less than a week after blasting his senate colleagues for trying to undermine a law he sponsored making it illegal for minors to carry beepers except in special circumstances, New Jersey State Councilman Ronald Rice is taking aim at PepsiCo.

PepsiCo Inc., in partnership with several other corporations, is planning to disperse half a million beepers to teenagers as part of a summer marketing campaign for its Mountain Dew brand soft-drink. The Wall Street Journal reported that the program could cost between \$40 million to \$50 million.

Pepsi plans to beep those who receive the electronic pagers and provide them with promotional messages, opportunities to win prizes and infor-

mation on other contests.

"The whole thing is rotten on a lot of levels," Rice fumed. "We're doing all we can to put a dent in the drug problem of my district and city. These pushers are using pagers and pay phones as portable offices."

The banning of those devices is just one step in what has to be a comprehensive effort to control drug dealers. We don't need major corporations aiding and abetting the problem. The beeper law was passed for a reason, a damn good reason and it's been effective."

According to John Harris, PepsiCo spokesman, "It's not fair to label legislation by the behavior of a small few." In a study in 1995 between 3 to 4 million teens had a beeper, and the

majority said they had it to stay in touch with friends, parents and employers. In fact, 54 percent of those polled had received their beeper from their parents.

Rice also cited that the campaign, which is being billed as a "giveaway" is no such thing. In order to receive the beepers consumers must mail in proofs of purchase and \$29.99. He believes the money Pepsi and the other companies are going to spend would be better served by putting it towards educational programs, civic and social concerns and jobs.

The positive media attention and beneficial effect such a promotion would have on an entire community would be a further reaching and more substantial campaign. "There will

never be another Pepsi product in my house," the livid senator proclaimed.

The other companies involved in the plan include Motorola Inc., Vivacom, and Sony Corp. among others. The program, labeled the "Extreme Network" is being offered to teens 18 years or older with a proof of residency—which will be verified by contacting the individuals at their homes. According to Harris, PepsiCo hopes to tap into the trend by being able to let the teens know of special promotions.

Harris also said that the company had no plans to interrupt the teens' studies, "there will be no beeping during school hours from PepsiCo," said Harris.

See BEEPER CONTROVERSY/page 2

HUD plans to demolish Newark complex draws protest

NEWARK—Angry residents of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's office to demolish a 420-unit high rise apartment building in Newark has drawn sharp criticism from the backs of a plan to renovate the 22-story building and transform the apartments from Section 8 subsidies to market-rate rentals.

The HUD decision, which would replace the Hill Manor apartment tower in the city's Central Ward with 75 subsidized townhouses, was termed "capricious" and "unconscionable"

by Vincent Lane, president of the American Community Housing Association (ACHA), parent (owners) of the property.

A long string of letters to HUD Secretary Henry Cisneros, Lane charged that the action came after four years of intensive efforts to raise sufficient equity to rehabilitate the project, and less than two years before a proposed closing with Owen Financial Corporation, of West Palm Beach, FL, which had agreed to invest more than \$17 million.

"We are shocked that this action was initiated only after our proposed equity partners and ACHA submitted a final transfer of Physical Assets application to HUD," wrote Lane. "We speculate whether HUD intended to demolish this property all along believing we would fail to find an investor willing to underwrite an investment based on Newark market rents without section subsidies."

If reversed, Lane charged the decision by HUD Newark.

• Would remove 420 viable low-in-

come housing units from an already strained local housing market.

• Result in the loss of \$30 million in federal low-income tax credits already allocated by New Jersey to the property and more than \$20 million in HUD-held mortgages.

• Cost HUD approximately \$28 million of taxpayer money.

"The availability of tax credits is what allowed us to get Owen's financial commitment," Lane said. "Our proposal required not one red cent of new HUD funds. Clearly demolition is

not the least costly alternative."

HUD Newark's letter on the decision suggests that the action is in the best interests of the tenants and the surrounding neighborhood.

According to Lane, his company must spend \$8 million by July 31 or lose the allocated tax credits. "Either we resolve this or we are prepared to pursue legal remedies to either allow us to carry out the proposed renovation or to recover damages we have suffered."

See HUD/page 10

New Jersey Tax Amnesty ends June 1

TRENTON—New Jersey's Tax Amnesty program ends June 1. Under Tax Amnesty, people who owe back taxes pay only the tax they owe; all penalties and interest are waived. After Amnesty ends, an additional, unsubstantiated 5 percent penalty will be imposed on all outstanding liabilities.

Liabilities from all New Jersey taxes administered and collected by the State Division of Taxation—including New Jersey Gross Income taxes, Corporate taxes, Sales and Use taxes and almost 30 other taxes—are eligible for

Amnesty. Federal taxes and local property taxes are not eligible.

Amnesty is available for liabilities from returns due on or after January 1, 1987 and before January 1, 1996.

1. What kinds of back taxes are most frequently paid during Amnesty?

Liabilities paid under Amnesty generally fall into four major categories: New Jersey Gross Income taxes, from people who have either failed to file returns or who have not paid

enough in the past;

• Corporate taxes, from companies who have failed to file returns or who have not paid enough in the past;

• Sales taxes from merchants who have either never registered with the Division and failed to collect or remit the tax, or from merchants who have underreported sales and therefore paid less tax than they owe;

• And Use Taxes, from consumers who have purchased items either through the mail or out of state for

use here in New Jersey, and who have either paid no sales tax and therefore owe New Jersey 6 percent Use Tax on the purchase price of those items or have paid a state sales tax that was less than New Jersey's 6 percent sales tax (and therefore owe New Jersey the difference).

2. How much can penalties and interest on back taxes cost?

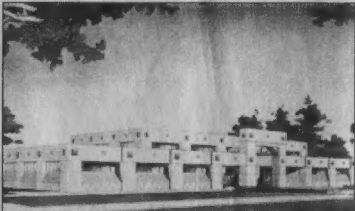
Penalties and interest can add significantly to your original tax bill. For

example, \$1,000 in New Jersey Gross Income Tax owed since April 15, 1993, has already incurred \$435 in penalties and interest. If you choose to take advantage of Amnesty, you would only pay the original \$1,000. If you fail to take advantage of the Amnesty opportunity, you would owe \$1,435 after June 1, plus an additional, unsubstantiated 5 percent penalty.

This limited-time Amnesty programs offers people who owe back taxes a chance to save money, get tax

See TAX AMNESTY/page 3

Health center opens doors of new home



Pictured above, Plainfield's new state-of-the-art health center.

by Kelly Howard

PLAINFIELD—Usheering into new stages in the life of the Plainfield Health Center, a widely varied group of patients, board members, and staff took part in the ribbon cutting ceremony at the Monday, May 20 Open House.

The ceremony marks the completion of the Center's new building at 1700-S Myrtle Avenue and the move from its old location at 609-625 West

Fourth Street and 700 Park Avenue. "The Health Center has been an important part of my family's life, in fact most of Plainfield's families life for years," said Plainfield resident Diana Talley. "We watched it grow and expand for the community, so it's nice to see the community come out to share in this important occasion."

With Plainfield residents of all ages, community leaders and officials

the staff and board members received a warm welcome to their new home and nothing but praise on a job well done.

"This place is state-of-the-art," said State Assemblyman Jerry Green. "It has to be the best looking, efficiently laid-out health care center I have ever been in."

The new facility, which is almost three times larger than the two old buildings, will offer quick patient movement from the central core waiting area to one of six specialized health waiting areas. This new plan of separate waiting areas is set up to speed service and get away from the large waiting room that dominated the old facilities, explained executive director Julian Miller.

"We're moving ahead on behalf of our patients," said Miller, "offering more diverse primary care services, constructing and equipping a more advanced health center, and always maintaining our quality care."

In working to cater to their patients needs, the center is alleviating one of accessibility to low-income citizens.

See HEALTH CENTER/page 10

Essex corruption trial begins

NEWARK—Another trial of council corruption began recently as federal prosecutors and former Essex County Councilman Ralph Harris' lawyer opened with opposing statements on his dealings with an expected \$10,700 campaign contribution and a reward of a \$50,000 city towing contract.

Federal prosecutors told a jury recently that Harris hoped to be made mayor with the help of the pledge and promise of the contract. The councilman's lawyer countered that the official neither solicited nor accepted any money, and was merely "a victim, a pigeon," in the hands of a white undercover FBI agent targeting black officials.

Harris is on trial along with a former president of the Newark City Council, Ralph T. Grant Jr., Grant and another former New-

ark Council President, Gary Harris, were convicted last year of accepting money in a failed effort to help K&K Towing of Hudson obtain a Newark towing contract. They were sentenced to 33 months in prison, but remain free on bail pending their appeals.

According to reports Grant, acting as advisor to Ralph Harris before the 1993 Democratic mayoral primary, introduced him to the three principals of K&K. Grant and Harris, both 16-year council veterans, face two conspiracy charges. Harris is also charged with corruptly soliciting money.

Neither Grant nor Harris knew that one of the K&K men, Jack Barry, was really FBI Special Agent Jack Cloonan, and that another, Charles Geyer, was a longtime Newark busi-

See CORRUPTION TRIAL/page 10

PEOPLE

Community Calendar

THRU DECEMBER
NEW YORK—Spirit Cruises presents its 1996 Grand Cruise Series aboard the Spirit of New York and Spirit of New Jersey. For more info call 212-727-7788 or 201-487-6201.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 29
EASTBRUNSWICK—A.N. celebrates its 25th broadcast anniversary with a gala event at the Brunswick Hilton. Special guests and performers include Polinda Watts and Leslie Uggams. For more info call 609-777-5007.

THRU MAY 30
LINCOLN—On Thursday evenings the Monmouth County Park System will hold a stained glass workshop for adults at the Bihler Stained Glass Studio classes are from 8:30-8:30 p.m. For more info call 908-842-4000 ext. 237.

EDISON—Middlesex County College presents *Mr. Pueblo y Mi Gente (My Town and My People)* photo exhibit at the College Center Gallery. For more info call 908-506-2566.

THURSDAY, MAY 30
NEWARK—Important Community Meeting on Tax Revaluation at 7 p.m. at St. Francis Xavier Church Auditorium.

THRU MAY 31
SEA BRIGHT—On Fridays from 7-8 p.m. the Monmouth County Park System will host Western Ballroom Dancing classes at the Sea Bright Recreation Center. For more info call 908-842-4000.

MAY 31, JUNE 7 & 14
CAUCUS EDUCATIONAL CORPORATION presents "Families in Focus" on Cable Television Network of NJ at 12 p.m.

SATURDAY, JUNE 1
ASBURY PARK—The Asbury Park University School of Performing Arts will be performing a work in progress at 3:30 p.m. For more info call 908-888-9244.

PATERSON—All are welcome to an open forum on crime, education and economic development within the inner cities, at the Public Library from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more info call 201-523-5627 or 201-279-1215.

NEPTUNE—Monmouth County Park System schedules a Family Fossil Day at Shark River Park, from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. For more info call 908-842-

4000.

SUNDAY, JUNE 2
NEWARK—New Jersey Symphony presents opera diva Leontyne Price in recital at Newark Symphony Hall at 3 p.m. For more info call 1-800-ALL-ERG.

JUNE 2 AND 9
CAUCUS EDUCATIONAL CORPORATION presents "Families in Focus" on Channel 13 at 5 p.m.

MONDAY, JUNE 3
NEW YORK—Schoenberg Center for Research in Black Culture and the New York Public Library presents "The Substance of Things Hoped For: Conversations with Dr. Cornel West" featuring Harry Belafonte at 7 p.m. For more info call 212-491-2206.

TUESDAY, JUNE 4
PARISIPANY—Free seminar on Joint Insurance Funds for Employee Health or Term Life Insurance at Parisipany Hills High School from 7 to 9 p.m. For more info call 201-493-3434.

THRU JUNE 16
NEW YORK—"Image and Memory," Latin American Photography 1880-1992 at the El Museo del Barrio.

ATLANTIC CITY—The Grand Casino Resort presents a priceless 50s memorabilia display and giveaway.

SATURDAY, JUNE 22
GRANFORD—All members of Washington Rock Girl Scout Council and their friends are invited to attend the fifth annual "Moonlight Family Swim" from 8:15 to 11:00 p.m. at the Centennial Avenue Outdoor Swim Complex. For more info call 908-232-3236.

THRU AUGUST 4
NEW YORK CITY—"Picture Paradise: Colonial Photography of Samoa, 1875-1925" exhibition investigating the growth of the concept of an island "paradise" through early photographs of Samoa and its people at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. For more info call 212-635-7710.

THRU DECEMBER 31
MONTCLAIR—"The Montclair Art Museum's American and Native American collections will be on display in 'Reflecting America: Highlights from the Permanent Collection. For more info call 201-746-5555.

Barlow, Gourdine honored by Bloomfield College



BLOOMFIELD—Pamela Barlow of Plainfield, (l) a psychology major at Bloomfield College, recently received the Clarence Fuller Scholarship at the College's awards ceremony at the Robert V. Van Fossan Theatre on campus. Also awarded was Shaugh Gourdine of Newark, (r) an accounting major who garnered the Friends of the Bloomfield Town Library Award. The Friends of the Bloomfield Town Library Award is presented to students who have achieved high academic standards through continued intelligent use of the library's resources and services.

Dunham, Ziyad named to top firefighting positions



Mayor Sharpe James introduces the Fire Department's new affirmative action officer, Edward Dunham (r). The mayor also appointed Firefighter Faten Ziyad (l) to replace Dunham as head of the Community Relations Division. Dir. Director Stanley Kozak is seated next to Ziyad.

Photo by William Ramos

New Brunswick residents honor community leaders

NEW BRUNSWICK—The New Brunswick Homes Public Housing Resident Council, Inc. will hold its 22nd Annual Community Awards Banquet, on Thursday, May 30 at Gambino's Restaurant in New Brunswick.

The purpose of the Banquet is to honor individuals and organizations who have made outstanding contribution to the quality of life through service in the field of education, social services, housing and community development.

The Resident Council will bestow, on behalf of the New Brunswick Housing Authority, the Richard Lane Memorial Award to Ronald Payne, Principal of Lord Siding Elementary School.

Other honorees include Mary Huh, president of the Resident Council; Erkene Jones Memorial Award; Ed Mann, Program Supervisor of TEAM Program, NBHRCI Community Services Award; and Tania Stanchik, Social Worker at Demonstration Day Care, NBHRCI Community Contribution Award.

Nine other individuals will receive Certificates of Merit and Appreciation: Dr. Steven Levin, Emily Garrison, C.S.W., Louis Booker, Barbara Stokes, Elwood Van Anglen, Rachel Mosley, Roberta Miller, Myra Stallworth and Ethel Henderson. Mayor James M. Cahill will be the guest of honor. For additional information, please call 903-347-6735 or 908-745-5122.

Terri Rich awarded NJSCPA accounting scholarship



ROSELAND—Terri Rich, a resident of Elizabeth and a junior at Rutgers University, was recently awarded a \$1,000 accounting scholarship by the New Jersey Society of Certified Public Accountants on behalf of the National Association of Black Accountants (NABA). Rich, who is expected to graduate Rutgers University in May, 1997, is also a Brounstein Distinguished Scholar and involved in the NABA Residents for Community Development.



Greenwood named editorial style director at ESSENCE

NEW YORK—Monique Greenwood has been appointed Editorial Style Director at *ESSENCE* magazine. In the newly created senior editorial position, Greenwood will be responsible for repositioning and directing the magazine's fashion pages, overseeing the Living Lifestyle section, and working with *ESSENCE*'s beauty and art teams on *ESSENCE* covers and celebrity layouts.

Beeper controversy

Continued from page 1

"First legislators try to repeal one of the few effective tools we have in combating drugs and now this. We're doing big businesses' bidding and exploiting our kids in the process. If we allow this to happen, we should be ashamed," the senator stated.

Bob Smith named top environmental and consumer legislator

TRENTON—Assemblyman Bob Smith (D-Piscataway) has been named New Jersey's top legislator on consumer and environmental issues by the New Jersey Public Interest Research Group (PIRG).

The group recently released its annual legislative scorecards and Smith received the highest ranking out of the 80 members in the General Assembly. Of all the legislators, Smith voted pro-environment and pro-consumer more than 90 percent of the time.

"I am grateful for the recognition PIRG has given to my voting record of protecting New Jersey's environment and consumers," Smith stated. "It's always encouraging to be recognized for doing the right thing on behalf of the general public."

Women voters hold Democratic Primary Candidates' Forum

PLAINFIELD—The Plainfield League of Women Voters is sponsoring a Democratic Primary Candidates' Forum on Wednesday, May 29 at the Plainfield Public Library in the Community Room starting at 7:30 p.m.

The event is open to the public, offering an opportunity for citizens to direct questions to the individual candidates, and hear their views and plans regarding the various issues facing the community.

Panelists will be Edward Long, Albert McWilliams who are vying for the Democratic slot on the ballot for councilman-At-Large, Malcolm Dunn, current councilman-At-Large and Helen Miller, current Third Ward council member who are vying for the Third Ward Council seat.

Calendar listings should be sent two weeks in advance to ensure publication

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New Jersey
A STATE MAKES

National News
at a Glance

CLINTON BACKS
WELFARE-SHAPPING
BILL

President Clinton, continuing to co-opt the central messages of Republicans, endorsed a Wisconsin plan to remove welfare, arguably the most extreme of the state-controlled welfare plans developed by Republicans. In a recent radio address, Pres. Clinton called the Wisconsin proposal "solid" and "bold." He said if a bi-partisan welfare reform bill was sent to him, he would sign it right away. If approved, the aid to Families with Dependent Children program would be eliminated in the state. The total number of the nation's welfare recipients has declined by 1.3 million since Pres. Clinton took office, now totaling 12.8 million, reported *The Washington Post*.—WASHINGTON, DC

WHITE SUPREMACIST
ORGANIZATION
ORDERED TO PAY
BLACK FAMILY

A North Carolina white supremacist group that sold off land to avoid having to turn it over to a black family was ordered recently by a federal court to pay the family the \$84,000 profit. The group, called the Church of the Creator, had sold the land to "Turner Dianas" after William L. Pierce, "Dianas" is a right-wing novel that is considered a major book of the anti-militarist movement. Ben Klassen, the church's leader, sold the 20 acres to Pierce in 1992, right before George D. Leob, a group official, Mansfield's family was assisted in the lawsuit by the Southern Poverty Law Center, an advocacy group that files lawsuits against white racist organizations. Steve Kopyelson, the church's lawyer, told *The New York Times* he plans to challenge the all-white jury's decision and to spotlight the center's role. —NORTH CAROLINA

BLACK CIVIL WAR
GROUP LOOKING FOR
VET ANCESTORS FOR
DC AREA MEMORIAL

The African-American Civil War Memorial Freedom Foundation, a Washington, DC-based group, is scheduled to unveil a memorial honoring the nation's estimated 185,000 black Civil War veterans during the Black Family Reunion and the Congressional Black Caucus Legislative Weekend in September. The foundation is looking for the veterans' ancestors to participate in the Sept. 10 commemorative ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Va. Descendants should forward copies of their ancestors' military records and pension records, with the ancestors' names and phone numbers, to: P.O. Box 73517, Washington, D.C. 20009, to the attention of Lyndia Grant. —WASHINGTON, DC

WORLD AFRICAN
NETWORK GOES
ONLINE

The World African Network, a national cable network based in Atlanta, GA, says it has launched an online service as the prelude to an upcoming 24-hour premium cable service, recently announced network chairman Eugene D. Jackson. "Emerging technologies such as the Internet are redefining traditional information and communications mediums. As a result, World African Network's mission has expanded to include World African Network Online. World African Network Online is an important step in the company's mission to address historical imbalances in the presentation of African images," stated Jackson. The WAN's Web homepage address is "http://www.worldafricanet.com/" WAN has interests in cable television, cellular and online communications.—ATLANTA, GA

Minority contractors launch
national youth initiative

WASHINGTON, DC—"We are all positioned to provide opportunities for the next generation of minority contractors because we have access to current contractors who can provide jobs, on-the-job training and

mentoring assistance," stated Samuel Curadine, executive director of the National Association of Minority Contractors (NAMC) regarding the organization's "Reclaiming our Youth: Building Tomorrow's Minority

Contractors...Today" jobs and fund campaign.

The initiative is a major step towards preparing the country's most at-risk youth, African-Americans and Hispanics, between 16 and 24 for careers in the construction industry.

NAMC plans to focus its attention not only towards young people seeking skilled laborer jobs, but college-bound students who what to major in construction management, building sciences, architecture and engineering.

The three essential components of the program are career awareness to expose students K through 12 to construction career options; skills training to provide Department of Labor with certified classroom and job site experience and scholarships to support qualified candidates pursuing two and four-year technical and college degrees, as well as graduate programs.

To ensure the success of the program, NAMC is seeking the participation and support of the public and private corporations. For additional information on the campaign call Sam Curadine at 202-347-8259.

Innovator at an early age



Ron Brown, former Secretary of the U.S. Department of Commerce, as a 7-year-old boy in Pepsi-Cola's first point of purchase ad designed to target African Americans. The scene is an African-American family enjoying Pepsi in their home. Ron is seen reaching for the carton of Pepsi that his "mother" holds. The ad was created in 1948. He was one of the first African Americans to appear in national advertising for a major consumer products company.

Tax amnesty

Continued from page 1

you cannot afford to pay it all by June 1.

1. Interest and penalties will be waived on whatever you pay.

5. How can I find out more about Tax Amnesty?

Call the toll-free hotline at 1-800-286-6613. Access the Tax Amnesty section of New Jersey's Internet

debt off their consciences and avoid the risk of future Division actions against them.

3. What happens to me if I choose not to take advantage of Tax Amnesty?

New advances in technology, new laws that give the Division access to other federal and state records, and an expanded staff of investigators and auditors have made the Division's collection and compliance process much more efficient. That means that the chances of being caught for tax evasion in New Jersey are better than ever. If you are caught, you must pay full penalties and interest, and in some cases, face prosecution.

4. Can I pay my Amnesty-eligible liabilities on the installment plan or make partial payments?

Only payments received by June 1, 1996, will be eligible for Amnesty; there are no payment plans available. However, since Visa, Mastercard and Discover are now accepted forms of Amnesty payment, you may charge your Amnesty payment to one of those credit cards and pay that debt off on your own schedule. The bank issuing you the card will still charge you interest, but that interest will, in many cases, be less than the penalty and interest owed to the Division on your Amnesty-eligible liability.

It does make sense to pay off some part of your Amnesty liability, even if



payment, you could buy a HUD Home. That's right. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

'Texas Ranch event' among activities at NNPA confab

HOUSTON, TX—Philip Morris Companies, Inc., Kraft Foods and Philip Morris U.S.A. are co-sponsoring a "Texas ranch" event for the National Newspaper Publishers Association's 1996 annual convention. It is among the events scheduled from June 19 thru June 23 in Houston. For further information about the convention, call NNPA at 202-588-8764.

Pratt appeal case returned to local judiciary

SAN FRANCISCO, CA—The case of Geronomo Pratt, a black Panther-turned-political prisoner, has been sent back to Superior Court in California from the State Supreme Court in San Francisco.

Pratt, 48, was convicted in 1972 of murder, and has been denied parole at least 15 times, although activists claim new evidence shows Pratt was the victim of a FBI frame-up. Superior Court Judge Michael Cowell, agreeing with prosecutors, had sent the case to the State Supreme Court last month.

The move is considered a victory in the fight to overturn Pratt's conviction. "We're thrilled, and we're very pleased; it's back where we believe it belongs," Pratt supporter Jim McCreakey told the Associated Press. Pratt's lawyers include Johnnie Cochran, Pratt's original defense attorney.

Mfume speaks for NAACP



In keeping with his inaugural pledge to "reenergize" the 87-year-old Civil Rights organization, Mfume sees his weekly message as a vehicle the NAACP can use to communicate quickly and more effectively with larger segments of the community.

"Never again will anyone have to wonder what the NAACP is doing, what it has done and where it is going," says the organization's new leader. "We want to talk to people and radio becomes an instant tool for that to happen."

WASHINGTON, DC—NAACP President & CEO Kweisi Mfume

has become the voice of the NAACP, reaching black communities nationwide through weekly radio broadcasts. Pre recorded messages will cover a wide variety of topics, including political and social issues, current events and other matters of concern to the African-American community.

stant tool for that to happen."

Mfume adds, "I think it's fair to say that without the assistance of Wills Communications, the NAACP couldn't do what it hopes to do. We'd be severely limited."

Mfume is encouraging everyone to contact their local radio stations to request that the NAACP message be carried by those stations.

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YOUTHBEAT

Kids Kalendar

THURSDAY MAY 30
NEWARK—The Newark Public Schools' After School Youth Development Program is offering free SAT preparatory sessions on Tues., Wed. and Thurs. at all of the schools from 2:45 to 4:45 p.m. For more info call Joseph Placide at (201) 733-7336.

SATURDAY JUNE 1
SOMERSET—Good Children, a multicultural children's choir will perform at New Brunswick's State Theatre at 3:30 p.m. For more info call 908-246-7469.

JUNE 1THRU 22
MIDDLETOWN—Middle County Park System schedules creative adventures for tots from 9:30 to 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Tatum Park Activity Center, for kids 3-12 to 10:50. For more info call 908-842-4000.

SUNDAY JUNE 2
MOUNTAINVIEW—The Union County 4-H Fair will be held from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Tatum Park Activity Center, for kids 3-12 to 10:50. For more info call 908-842-4000.

EAST ORANGE—The East Orange All-Star Soccer Team to compete against Woodbridge at 5 p.m. in Sovereign Park. For more info call 201-414-4141.

JUNE 4THRU 6
COLTS NECK—Middletown County Park System schedules "Get Out There" for three-year-olds, at Dorbrook Activity Area at 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. and 2 to 4 p.m. For more info call 908-842-4000.

Calendar listings should be sent two weeks in advance to ensure publication

United Way Kicks-off Youth Day '96

NEWARK—The power of the next generation will be out in "full force" throughout the community on June 4 to celebrate Youth Day '96. Approximately 200 young people, from local public schools and universities will participate to clean up parks, work at soup kitchens, promote literacy at the library, assist Greater Newark Conservancy with beautification projects such as flower and tree planting and other services.

According to Tiffany Thomas, a young volunteer for the Newark International Youth Organization AmeriCorps program, "Youth Day '96" is about young people having an opportunity to participate in civic service and demonstrate our positive contributions to society. It is personally rewarding because we are making a difference in the lives of people and the communities we live in."

United Way's new President and CEO Maria Vazquez-De Soto affirms that "Youth Day '96" is an excellent opportunity for young people to be recognized for their service efforts in their community. It will not only increase awareness about community issues and problems, but create paths of collaboration among youth, community services agencies, universities and local governments." For more information on Youth Day '96 call 800-ENABLER-96.

Plainfield and Westfield schools get access to the net

PLAINFIELD—The Latin program established three years ago as a cooperative effort between Plainfield and Westfield school districts is soon to be available on the net. The program will create the first Latin Homepage on the Worldwide Web for 5th and 6th graders.

The project is being funded through a \$15,000 grant from Bell Atlantic and the New Jersey Association of School Administrators.

According to officials from both districts, adding an on-line component to the curriculum will broaden the experience for students and staff, enrich curricula with on-line resources; provide parents, other students and the broader community with access to the program's resources and progress.

Students in the voluntary program will be able to have e-mail exchanges and the curriculum will be revised to support telecommunications activities in student projects. Lessons will require exchanges in between weekly sessions. Libraries in both districts will have computer and modems to enable students to work as buddies between classes.

Plainfield's Babe Ruth League back on track



Members of the Girl's Softball team, (back row l-r) Tonia Tines, Adia Dismuke, Tyisha Smallwood, Dawn Williams; (front row l-r) Corean Shelton, Marquette, Shelton, and Susanna Robinson.

by Candace Waller

PLAINFIELD—T.C. Screen Printers and Sportswear owner Greg McCray believes in giving back to the community and as vice-president of the Plainfield Babe Ruth Baseball League he has dedicated countless hours working with the local youth.

"Most of the time children don't see a positive male role model," McCray said. "A lot of them don't have fathers in the home."

Three years ago the league was falling apart. Teams had no uniforms, equipment was old, fields were unsafe and some coaches weren't certified. McCray, along with a few other concerned parents and coaches, have worked hard to improve the Plainfield Babe Ruth Baseball League.

In attendance at the league opening ceremonies on Saturday, April 27, at Rock Avenue field in Plainfield were parents, local government officials, and coaches.

of blood and guts, pale in comparison to today's prime time television shows and music videos.

With motor vehicle crashes leading the cause of death in 15 to 20 year olds, the National Safety Council has come up with a new way of getting the right message to youth. "Get Big On Safety," featuring LaFace recording artist Usher as the national spokesman, is an exciting campaign that reinforces the seriousness of driving with a fresh MTV approach.

In addition to the educational component, this year's campaign includes contests for youth ages 10 to 18 in three areas: rap, poster art and writing.

The fashionable side of the gospel



Pictured (l-r) models Sheritta Robinson, Brandon Watts, both of Neptune, Danielle Irbly of Ocean and Rachel Warren also of Neptune show off their new Spring fashion.

NEW LONG BRANCH—Youth United For Christ Mass Choir recently held it's Second Annual Fashion Show, with much success, at the Ramada Inn in West Long Branch.

The choir consist of 130 young people from 27 different churches and various religious backgrounds.

Clothing for the fashion show was provided by Mr. Fashions of Asbury Park, Deb Shop and Sears from Seaview Square Mall in Ocean. The fashions included sportswear, summerwear, casual and formal wear. The event was emceed by J.J. DuPont.

"Connie Holmes and Laura Anderson

are always behind the scene and are most instrumental in making sure business arrangements are handled correctly. The executive board has worked hard and our spiritual leader Rev. Stanley Watts has been very supportive," stated mistress of ceremony Queen Cannon.

The fashion show was a part of the choir's fund raising technique to help support its travel arrangements for various concert appearances. The group has performed at the White House in Washington, DC and are planning to do concerts in Connecticut and North Carolina.



NEWARK—McGruff the Crime Dog gets help to take a bite out of crime as he is surrounded by Alexis Braxton (2nd from l), Britany Williams and Newark Police Officer Susan Braxton at the May 4 celebration of "Kids' Day America." The day was dedicated to the health and welfare of children nationwide. Events included games, balloons, food, giveaways and prize drawings every half hour and McGruff provided essential information on crime prevention, child safety and environmental awareness. Nubian Chiropractic Center of Newark issued child ID cards and the Newark Police Department provided free fingerprinting of youngsters. Disney's Bugs Bunny and Simba from the Lion King also joined the festivities. All of the proceeds collected nationwide will be donated to Local and National charities according to Drs. Theresa and Stuart Warner event founders.

There are over 400 children in the league ranging in age from 5 to 16. Teams have new uniforms, equipment and sponsors. There are over 90 black male coaches, all of whom have completed a certification course.

Baseball parents work the concession stands to raise money for the league. New editions for the league include girls' softball and a all-star traveling team that competes with other teams in New Jersey.

They are still trying to build upon this groundwork by trying to get field lights for night games. Plainfield Mayor Fury made a commitment to have a new concession stand for next season.

"I am proud of each and every one of you young folks," Mayor Fury said. "We respect your efforts. The whole town is yours—the town is for the people."

Councilman-at-large Malcolm Dunn knows first hand the challenges of coaching a youth baseball team. He says that recreational activities with parental guidance is good for the community.

"What I really like about the league is the chance it gives young children to use energy," Dunn said. "It's also the chance for them to participate."

SEE BABE RUTH LEAGUE/page 10

Usher says 'Get Big on Safety'

Contest awards exceed \$7,500 in cash prizes, with a grand prize of up to \$4,000. Contest deadline is June 1.

The "Get Big On Safety" video, discussion guide and posters will be sent to schools and youth organizations nationwide. Through the new Get Big On Safety... It's Your Life video, students, and Usher, will get a first hand look at issues such as seat belt use, drinking, driver responsibility and consequences of poor choices.

To get an entry form or to receive information for your school or organization contact the National Safety Council, "Get Big On Safety" Campaign at 800-621-7619. The contest winners will be announced the last week of June 1996.

This Week in Black History

MAY 29

1910 - Ralph Metcalfe is born in Atlanta, GA. He is a world record holder in the 100 and 200 yard dashes and won a bronze medal in the 1932 Olympics.

1969 - Artist and an educator James V. Herring dies in Washington, DC.

1973 - Tom Bradley is elected mayor of Los Angeles, CA. He is the first African-American mayor of the city and will serve an unprecedented five terms.

MAY 30

1822 - Denmark Vesey's conspiracy to free slaves of Charleston, SC and surrounding areas is thwarted when a slave betrays the plot to whites.

1983 - Countess Cullen is born in New York City. Heatenoid NYU, was elected Phi Beta Kappa in 1925, and won poetry prizes throughout his undergraduate run.

1965 - Vivian Malone becomes the first African-American graduate from the University of Alabama.

1971 - Willie Mays scores his 1,550th run.

MAY 31

1907 - The first civil rights Enforcement Act, which protects the voting and civil rights of African Americans, is passed by Congress.

1969 - The first NAACP conference is held in New York City with 300 African Americans and scholars.

1931 - Opera mezzo-soprano Shirley Verrett is born in New Orleans, LA.

1985 - The U.S. Supreme Court passes a second desegregation ruling, demanding "all deliberate speed" be used in the desegregation of public schools.

1987 - John Denson is named publisher of the Boulder, CO, Daily Camera.

JUNE 1

1835 - The Fifth National Negro Convention recommends that blacks remove the word "African" from the titles of their organizations and discontinue referring to themselves as "colored."

1937 - Actor Morgan Freeman is born.

JUNE 2

1941 - The first African-American tank battalion, the 788th, is activated.

1973 - WGR-TV Channel 62 in Detroit, MI, is granted a permit to operate. It is the first television station owned by African Americans.

1968 - John Hope is born in Augusta, GA. He will be the first African-American president of Atlanta Baptist (later Morehouse) College.

1943 - The 99th Pursuit Squadron, the first African-American Army Air Corps unit, flies its first combat mission in the Mediterranean, strafing enemy positions on the Italian island of Pantelleria.

1951 - Lawyer Kenneth I. Chesebri is born in Mineola (Long Island), NY.

1967 - The first of three days of race riots occur in the Roxbury section of Boston.

JUNE 3

1871 - Miles Vanderhulst Lytk is born near Brownsville, TN. A physician at 19, he founds the first African-American medical journal, and was one of the organizers of the National Medical Association.

1987 - Roland Hayes is born in Curryville, TN. Nobel concert artist, Hayes is the first African-American to give a recital in Boston's Symphony Hall.

1904 - Charles R. Drew, creator of the plasma method of blood preservation, is born in Washington, DC.

1906 - Josephine Baker, singer and entertainer, is born in St. Louis, MO.

1946 - In his Morgan's Commonwealth of Virginia ruling, the Supreme Court bans segregation in interstate bus travel.

JUNE 4

1922 - Samuel L. Gravelly, the first African-American admiral in the U.S. Navy, is born in Richmond, VA.

1946 - Mississippi Valley State University is founded in Itasca, MS.

1972 - Angela Davis is acquitted by 11 whites and a Mexican-American of murder, kidnapping and criminal conspiracy charges brought in connection with a 1970 courthouse shoot-out in San Rafael, CA.

1989 - Four African Americans win Tony awards for *Boyz n the Bay*, a musical revue featuring classic blues and tap-dance routines.

1991 - Baltimore Orioles manager Frank Robinson is named assistant general manager of the club.

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LIFESTYLE S

Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity reaches out to teens

by Ron L. Holland

teenage pregnancy.

"They (teens) must be responsible for their actions, stay positive, focused and make good choices," said Jeff Greene, chairman of the program. "They need to know who they are and where they come from. Once they do that, they can overcome racism and apathy."

Entrailing two workshop sessions entitled "A Responsible You," the program's enlightening panel discussions and lecture by Detective Lou Jordan of the Monmouth County Prosecutors Office, garnered full participation from

the 26 teenagers that attended. "America has set up a race for all of us to run," Jordan said during his lecture. "There must be a winner and there must be a loser. That's the way America has set up, but I submit to you that there must not always be a loser, there must always be winners."

Of the three panel discussions, the teenage mothers segment provided a glimpse into the life of a teen mom.

"I do everything for myself," said one 17-year-old teen, with a 19-month-old baby girl. "I do my own laundry, I buy my own things. Basically, my mom (gets) the necessities, but I have to do

everything for myself."

The four panelists' pregnancies were unplanned, the fathers are either absent or contribute little, and the demands on their lives are significant. Despite a fervent aspiration to further their education all four conceded that the road ahead is rough.

Pat Rappaport, a Neptune teacher for 23 years and coordinator of "In School Training for Effective Parenting (In-STEP)," said that a combination of situations contribute to teen pregnancies. "Some want to be loved, so they think that if they have a baby this would work," she said.

"Some of them want to hold onto the father of the baby. Some are in such dysfunctional homes that they think it's a better answer."

The two-day parenting panel discussions, "Go to High School," "Go to College," and "Juniates in the System" provided frank conversation.

From maintaining a respectable GPA, to steering clear of criminal activity, the panelists from the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity and representatives from the county and Federal Probation office, made it clear that teens must be responsible and held accountable for their behavior.

The program concluded with an emotional and entertaining keynote address/magic show by Jeff Thaxton.

Accounting the tragic events of his life, Thaxton encouraged abstinence, personal responsibility, avoidance of drugs and violence, accountability to their children, staying focused and furthering their education. "I enjoyed everything," said Tia Carson, 18, of Neptune. "I'm going to college to be an electrical engineer so my children will have someone to look up to."

Free HIV/AIDS prevention resources available

PLAINFIELD—Planned Parenthood of Greater Northern New Jersey invites Plainfield residents to order free pamphlets about how to prevent HIV/AIDS. Pamphlets include "How To Talk with Your Child about AIDS," "What Young People Should Know about AIDS," and "You Don't Have to Be White or Gay to Get AIDS." To obtain pamphlets send a self-addressed stamped envelope to PPGNJ, 129 Park Ave., Plainfield 07060.

AIDS prevention videos for children, adolescents and adults also are available for loan to individuals, schools and organizations. For a list of videos call 908-756-3765.

New Jersey Tourism industry gears up for summer

TRENTON—From High Point to Cape May, merchants, retailers, park rangers and restaurateurs are preparing for a long-awaited and much anticipated summer tourism season.

"At this time of year," said State Travel Director Linda Mysliwsky Conlin, "it's very apparent just how many people are involved in New Jersey's tourism industry."

Travel and tourism is the nation's second largest employer. Here in the Garden State, the tourism industry generates nearly \$23 billion annually and supports more than half a million jobs. And, the recently released 1995 tourism research figures demonstrate that the industry is as strong as ever, as the state's image improves and overnight visits are up a substantial 6.3 percent.

"In the coming season, and the coming year, we're going to make certain that our own New Jersey residents have more reasons than ever to vacation in their home state. Yet we will continue to target the out-of-state visitors, individuals who stay longer and spend more," said Conlin. "And we're going to work toward extending our peak tourism season, showing visitors that they have an array of options when choosing their vacationing activities. The Garden State's tourism product is incredibly diverse and consistently evolving."

On the Jersey Shore, Keanburg Amusement Park is being revitalized by its original founders, the Gelhaus family. They are opening a full-size, 35 million, state-of-the-art waterpark covering three acres of shore property. The excitement continues on the Camden Waterfront, with the spectacular new Ocean Base Atlantic at the New Jersey State Aquarium planning a wealth of special events and activities, and with the Blockbuster-SONY Music Entertainment Centre at the Waterfront welcoming world-renowned performers. And Six Flags Great Escape in Jackson, which had more than 4 million visitors in 1995 and has become the most attended seasonal theme park in North America, is kicking off its 1996 season with a host of new rides and activities.

"I'm thrilled at the enthusiasm that I see in every segment of our tourism industry," said Conlin. "Tourism works for America, and it most certainly works for New Jersey."

Religious Calendar

THURSDAY, JUNE 17

NEWARK—Presentation of the gospel play *Silver at Symphony Hall*. Shows are Friday 7:30 p.m. and Saturday 2 p.m. For more info and tickets call Viola Sykes at 908-755-5706.

SATURDAY, JUNE 1

OCEAN GROVE—Dave Siefert, gospel musician, and New Horizon Singers of Brookdale Baptist Church of Bloomfield will present a gospel music and music program at 2 p.m. at the Boardwalk Pavilion. For more info call 908-775-0035.

SUNDAY, JUNE 2

OCEAN GROVE—The Mt. Bible Chapel of Berkeley Heights will present a gospel concert at 3 p.m. at the Boardwalk Pavilion. For more info call 908-775-0035.

PLAINFIELD—St. Bernard of Clairvaux Parish is celebrating its 75th anniversary and presenting a concert at 8 p.m. For more info call 908-756-3393.

JUNE 14 THURSDAY

IRVINGTON—St. James A.M.E. Church sponsors a Community Festival at 40th Street Park. For more info call 201-622-1344.

Health Calendar

TUESDAY, MAY 28

ORANGE—The United Family of the Orange will hold a debate between candidates for the 10th Congressional District Democratic Party nomination at 7 p.m. at St. Matthew A.M.E. Church at 336 Oakwood Ave. Candidates are the incumbent Donald Payne and his challenger Antonio, Cecil Banks.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 23

CLARK—Multi-Care Health Center will hold free blood pressure screenings from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 3 to 5 p.m. For more info call 908-499-0606.

SUNDAY, JUNE 2

LIVINGSTON—Saint Barnabas Cancer Center hosts third annual cancer survivor's day from 11 to 4 p.m. For more info call 201-533-5448.

SCOTCH PLAINS—American Red Cross and St. Bartholomew's Church are sponsoring a blood drive from 8 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. For more info call 908-756-8414.

Newark offers free childcare feeding program

NEWARK—If you are a non-profit youth organization looking to provide free, nutritious meals to your participants, the City of Newark may be able to help.

The Free Child Care Feeding program, sponsored by the Newark Department of Health and Human Services is seeking local agencies to act as distribution sites.

The program is geared to serve children up to the age of 12. If your group qualifies, it can receive food from the initiative. All sites must be located in Newark. For details, please call 733-8924.

Ulcers can occur in children

HOUSTON—Like adults, children can get ulcers.

"Children can get ulcers from infection with the bacterium *Helicobacter pylori*, from reactions to certain drugs or from stress due to serious injury, infection or disease," said Dr. Mark Gilger, a pediatric gastroenterologist at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston.

Because children aren't good at pointing to the location of pain, Gilger recommends that parents look for symptoms:

- Abdominal pain that has occurred at least three times in three months.
- Awakening at night due to abdominal pain.
- Recurrent vomiting or vomiting with blood.

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FUN—GAMES—RIDES—ENTERTAINMENT

Muhlenberg gets \$25,000 for volunteer program

PLAINFIELD—Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center has received a \$25,000 Faith In Action grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation as start-up funds for an interfaith volunteer program. The program is geared toward meeting the needs of the elderly and disabled in the tri-county area served by the medical center.

The Interfaith Partnership Volunteer program will work through the Partnership For Healthier Living, a coalition between Muhlenberg and several area religious congregations, to recruit volunteers and identify community members in need.

In 1994, the same year the Partnership For Healthier Living was formed, Muhlenberg's Board of Governors endorsed the medical center's mission to include a commitment to enhance the health and well-being of the

community.

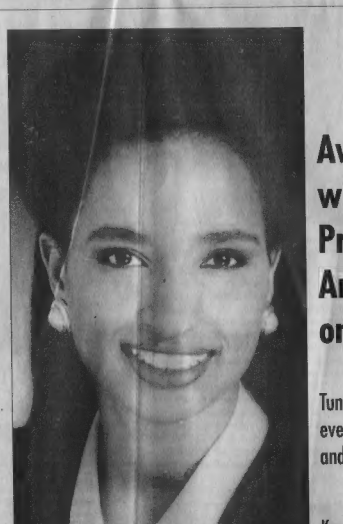
"It is not enough for a hospital to provide medical help for those needing immediate care. We have a responsibility to inform people about healthy lifestyles," said Mary Ann Keyes, RN, Muhlenberg vice president and co-chairman of the Partnership For Healthier Living.

"The Faith In Action grant will help the medical center and the religious congregations to educate our

area residents as we work together to meet their needs."

One of the Partnership's first projects was a survey of its members to determine the specific needs among the congregates.

The survey identified needs such as transportation, light housekeeping and companionship, which do not require the services of a health care professional, but can be met by trained volunteers, who are called to help others.



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Billboard

MAY 20 THRU JUNE 9
NEW BRUNSWICK—Gensie 1996 at Crossroads Theatre. For info call 908-249-5560.

THURSDAY, MAY 30
NEW YORK—Great Performers at Lincoln Center presents Parry Fleming and Helen York at Alice Tully Hall at 8 p.m. For more info call 212-721-6500.

SOUTH AMBOY—Club Bené brings to you saxophonist Boney James at 8:30 p.m. For more info call 908-727-3000.

THRU MAY 30
NEW YORK—SOB presents the new jazz duo Rachelle Ferrel at 8 and 10 p.m. For more info call 212-243-4940.

MAY 30 THRU JULY 25
NEW YORK—In My Father's House by Aaron-Ali Williams, a world premiere at the Billie Holiday Theatre. For info call 718-636-0918.

NEW BRUNSWICK—Photographs of Elie Domit featured at Crossroads Theatre. The exhibit entitled Ethiopia tells the stories of the people Domit came in contact with in Ethiopia. For info call 908-249-5560.

FRIDAY, MAY 31
SOUTH AMBOY—Hollywood Centerfolds, male revue to wow the ladies at Club Bené at 8:30 p.m. For more info call 908-727-3000.

SATURDAY, JUNE 1
SOUTH AMBOY—Club Bené presents original funksters, The Dazz Band at 9 p.m. For more info call 908-727-3000.

THRU JUNE 2
NEW YORK—Explorations in the City of Light: African-American Artists in Paris, 1945-1985 will be displayed at the Studio Museum in Harlem. For more info call 212-864-4500.

NEW YORK—Jazz Trumpeter Nicholas Payton promises "Gumbo Nouveau" party at Village Vanguard at 9:30 and 11:30 p.m. For more info call 212-255-4537.

NEW BRUNSWICK—Twist at the George Street Playhouse. For info call 908-346-7777.

JUNE 5 - JULY 22
MILLBURN—Evite by Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice at the Paper Mill Playhouse. For info call 201-376-4243.

SATURDAY, JUNE 8
PLAINFIELD—The PlayBld North Plainfield will host "Sassy, Sassy Night," a dance and auction to benefit building renovations. For info call 908-756-3636.

THRU JUNE 8
NEWARK—Win-A-Dollar-a-Speed: Prevailing Race & Education: a historical perspective on desegregation and education at Aljira. For more info call 201-643-8877.

NEW YORK—George Gensie and his Make Believe Ballroom Orchestra will perform at Supper Club. For more info call 718-956-9482.

Watch out for Eddie



Eddie (Whoopi Goldberg, c) is engaged in a somewhat confusing conversation with NBA referee David Dwyer (l) and coach Dennis Farrina during a game.
Photo by Myles Aronowitz

3 - NEW YORK—Who's the only 5'6" actor who could go one-on-one with 49 NBA superstars and still come out a winner every time? It's Whoopi Goldberg, and she is starring in Hollywood Pictures' newest comedy *Eddie*.
Eddie is the zany story of Edwina "Eddie" Franklin, a New York limo driver, who lives and breaths basketball. She knows everything there is to know about the New York Knicks, her favorite NBA team. She knows the players. She knows the coaches. She knows every statistic in the book. But what she never could have imagined is that hitting a free throw during a half-

time contest would completely change her life. She becomes the team's honorary coach for a game and as a result, the team's future rebounds.
After the one game stint as the team's coach, Eddie is offered the real head coaching job as part of a publicity stunt engineered by the new Knicks owner, Wild Bill Burgess (Frank Langella), a high profile businessman who would rather "sell the sizzle than the steak" and who sees, in Eddie, a headline-grabbing way to get people into the seats. What he doesn't see is a genuine motivator who can touch, teach and win.

ENTERTAINMENT

The Isley Brothers celebrates 40 years of music



NEW YORK, NY—The Isley Brothers are back on the beat with their latest album *Mission To Please*, produced by R. Kelly. Angela Winbush and Ronald Isley mark a 40-year legacy for the Isley Brothers and features works with Winbush and Keith Sweat.

The album is filled with tunes that provide the perfect backdrop for one-on-one, late night love sessions. The title track features Ernie Isley's distinctive guitar playing and Ronald's vocal magic. *Let's Lay Together* is the first single from the new album, written and produced by R. Kelly (who considers Ronald Isley one of his prime musical influences) along with *Can I Have A Kiss (For Old Times' Sake)*, both co-produced by Kelly and Winbush.

Keith Sweat's *Slow Is The Way*, the slowburnin' *Let's Get Intimate*

and Floatin' *On A Love*, a tender, yet passionate duet between Ronald and Angela, demonstrate the group's skills as romantic, love-making mood-makers of the highest order.

The Isley Brothers are celebrating four decades in the music business and have gold, platinum and multi-platinum albums with countless hits including *Summer Breeze*; *Hello It's Me*; *It's Your Thing*; *Love The One You're With*; *Lay-Away*; *Pop That Thing*; *Work To Do*; *Who's That Lady*; *Fight The Power*; *Harvest For The World*; *The Pride*; *Between The Sheets* and many more.

Lady Sings the Blues to air on AHN

A celebration of Black Music Month

NEW YORK—The African Heritage Movie Network (AHN) "Movie of the Month" series, hosted by film legends Ossie Davis and Ruby Dee, will celebrate Black Music Month with the broadcast of *Lady Sings the Blues* on June 2 at 11:30 p.m. on WABC.

A retelling classic of Billie Holiday's life, *Lady Sings the Blues*, received five Academy Award nominations including Diana Ross' poignant Best Actress nominated performance. AHN's "Movie of the Month" series is brought to you by AT&T.

Lady Sings the Blues tells the story of the troubled and glamorous life of international jazz star "Lady Day" Billie Holiday. Making a spectacular screen debut, Diana Ross captures Holiday's early life in Baltimore where she was determined to rise above ghetto life to later achieve world-wide fame singing in New York.

We see her run-ins with northern club owners and racist southern whites; and her downward spiral drug addiction which led to her eventual destruction.

Billie Dee Williams co-stars as the handsome prince who tries to rescue Holiday and Richard Pryor plays Holiday's upbeat piano man.

CITY NEWS
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Diana Ross stars as Billie Holiday in *Lady Sings the Blues*

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HOLLYWOOD PICTURES presents in association with POLYGRAM FILMED ENTERTAINMENT / ISLAND PICTURES a DAVID PERNUT Production
STYLING BY WHOOPI GOLDBERG FRANK LANGELLA "EDDIE" DENNIS FARRINA
RICHARD LEWIS THE STALLER CLARK Associate PRODUCED BY STEVE ZACHAROWS LEFF BLUM
DIRECTED BY STEVE ZACHAROWS LEFF BLUM AND LONDOY KELLY DAVID LLOYD
CASTING BY LONDOY KELLY DAVID LLOYD AND ERIC WAPPELLEA KATHY MITCHELL
PRODUCED BY DAVID PERNUT AND MARK DURG DIRECTED BY STEVE NASH

STARTS FRIDAY, MAY 31 AT THEATRES EVERYWHERE

Dee and French a real match in Checkmates



Cast members of *Checkmates* (l-r) Arthur French, Amy-Monique Waddell, Peter Jay Fernandez and Ruby Dee.

by Laura Andrews

Mattie (Ruby Dee) marches behind her husband Frank Cooper (Arthur French) as he reminisces about the days when he received firm discipline, as a member of the U.S. military, and his appreciation of that life—when things were simplistic and rewarding, in the New Federal Theatre production of *Checkmates*.

It seems appropriate to have Dee, who was in the Broadway production of *Checkmates* reappear years later in this production. In his off-Broadway production, Dee is beyond category. The regal beauty queen is a quintessential actress perfectly fitting the role as an intelligent, sophisticated and humorous wife who is overwhelmed with timely adage statements and anecdotes.

In *Checkmates* the older tradition's thoughts, concepts and belief convincingly outweigh the new. Impressively, in defense of her healthy-marital lifestyle, which is dubs old-fashion by Laura (Amy-

Monique Waddell), Mattie states, "35 years with Frank, children and grandchildren—I'll stick that against anything."

In an effort to not mislead Laura that marriages are necessarily flawless, Mattie discreetly describes her marriage, "You see the paradox, the marching bands, but you have not seen the wars."

In view of the generational gaps, the play highlights incidents in both groups (older and younger) as unparalleled. There are the comparisons of a loss embryo/fetus, domestic violence, household obligations and infidelity.

Like master chess players, in *Checkmates* Mattie and Frank accurately outline the younger generation in battling insurmountable problems. Frank's envy of modern-day conveniences transforms into a need to teach the younger generation the importance of discipline.

Indeed, the cynical Frank does not waiver in his expressive thoughts

See CHECKMATES/ page 10

"THE DROP-DEAD THRILL RIDE OF THE YEAR!"

Picture: Bruce WERTZ-TV

ALCATRAZ. Only one man has ever broken out. Now five million lives depend on two men breaking in.

SEAN CONNERY NICOLAS CAGE ED HARRIS

JOHN SIMPSON JERRY BRUCKHEIMER

THE ROCK

MICHAEL BAY

HOLLYWOOD PICTURES JOHN SIMPSON JERRY BRUCKHEIMER

MICHAEL BAY SEAN CONNERY NICOLAS CAGE ED HARRIS THE ROCK MICHAEL DEAN WILLIAM FORSYTHE
NICK GILBERT SMITH HANG ZHANG RICHARD FRANCIS BRIDGE MICHAEL WHITE JOHN SCHWARTZMAN
WILLIAM STUART SEAN CONNERY LOUIS A. SCHULER DAVID WESBERG DOUGLAS S. COOK
DAVID WESBERG DOUGLAS S. COOK MARK ROSEN JOHN SIMPSON JERRY BRUCKHEIMER
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STARTS FRIDAY, JUNE 7TH AT THEATRES EVERYWHERE

BUSINESS

'Business Calendar

THURSDAY, MAY 30

METUCHEN—How to Survive in Today's Economy seminar for business owners and retailers at Cyn's Restaurant at 7 p.m. For more info call 1-800-932-0093 or 214-71-2107.

MONDAY, JUNE 3

SOMERSET—Regional Business Partnership Small Business Q&A Outing at Fox Hollow Golf Club For more info call Mike Bard at 201-242-6237, ext. 222.

JUNE 3 THROUGH JULY 11

CRANFORD—Union County College will offer four business videocourses: "Introduction to Business," "Organization and Management," "Small Business Management," and "Principles of Marketing." For more info call 908-790-7500.

TUESDAY, JUNE 4

SOMERSET—Somerset County Chamber of Commerce Business Card Exchange from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Somerset County Vocational Technical Schools. For more info call 908-725-1552.

MONTCLAIR—Urban League Network hosts financial management series on entrepreneurship at 6:30 p.m. For more info call 201-746-9438.

MONDAY, JULY 10

SECAUCUS—Expo '96, New York/New Jersey Minority Purchasing Council Marketing & Business Expo Seminars and Workshops at the Sheraton Meadowlands Hotel, Trade Fair at the Meadowlands Convention Center. For info call 212-522-7833.

BRIELLE—Midwest Chapter NJABJO 10th Anniversary River Cruise from 6:30 to 10 p.m. For more info call 908-329-0002.

JUNE 10 THROUGH 14

WASHINGTON, DC—Successful Business to Business Product Management seminar at the AIA Management Center. For more info call 1-800-262-8699. For hotel reservations call the Hyatt Regency Capital Hill at 202-942-1555 or the Washington Court Hotel at 202-608-2100.

JUNE 11 THROUGH 12

NEW YORK—The Center for Business Marketing Information hosts a seminar exclusively for business-to-business marketers "Using RFM." The Secret Weapon of Successful Marketers. For more info call 202-657-5660.

TUESDAY, JUNE 18

NEW YORK—U.S. General Services Administration sponsors a seminar "Minority Business Breakfast for Small/Medium Owners, Entrepreneurs, and Executives" at the Veranda Restaurant from 9 to 11 a.m. For more info call 212-264-1234.

NEW YORK—Museum of the City of New York announces the first historic Black tie dinner celebration at 6:30 p.m. For more info call 212-934-1672.

JUNE 25 AND 26

CHICAGO, IL—Target Market News presents the Marketing to African Americans Expo and Conference at the Swissôtel. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily. For more info call 1-800-411-MAXX.

Calendar listings should be sent two weeks in advance to ensure publication.

Graffiti removal grant offered for UEZs

PATERSON—A new grant is being offered to help businesses clean graffiti within the Urban Enterprise Zone of their location cities. Any business located in an UEZ is eligible to apply for an initial grant of \$500. Additional funding is available as a dollar-for-dollar matching grant up to \$3,000, depending on the size of the building.

Under the terms of the grant, recipients will be able to contract with a cleaning company for the removal of the graffiti, but must treat the newly treated surface with an anti graffiti coating.

Funds available for the program are a result of the reduced sales tax collected by businesses in the UEZ. To receive an application contact Paterson's Small Business Loan Office at 201-279-5980.

Send your business news to City News at 144 North Ave. Plainfield, NJ 07060

New agricultural secretary adopts recommendations on civil rights

WASHINGTON—Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman has accepted all the recommendations of a U.S. Department of Agriculture task force to improve equal employment opportunity and diversity within the Department. He also announced additional actions that go beyond the task force's recommendations.

"I have and will continue to reaffirm my personal commitment to creating a USDA as diverse as the people we serve," Glickman said. "We've made genuine progress regarding equal employment opportunity and diversity, and there is more to do. The task force's recommendations are an important step in the right direction."

BUSINESS IN THE BLACK

The Department is adopting benchmarks for measuring the performance of senior executives on equal opportunity/civil rights issues and developing detailed guidance for mission areas and agencies for conducting appropriate and accurate civil rights impact analyses for agency regulations.

"In the area of complaints management, I continue to be deeply concerned about the backlog of discrimination complaints that has unfortunately been a long standing problem at USDA. I have felt since I came to USDA that we needed to act aggressively to address this problem," Glickman said. He reported that he intends to take the following actions to address the backlog:

Complaints adjudication—First, the Department has established, for the first time, standard operation procedures for the processing of EEO complaints, and is finalizing standard operating procedures for program complaints.

Second, the Department has published a proposed rule to establish a separate section in the Code of Federal Regulations on program complaints.

Finally, a single adjudicator will be assigned to each complaint "from

shape. If you can't get into cyberspace or virtual reality without getting lost, then you are not just behind the times, but you will be left behind in the greatest economic movement since the Industrial Age. Avoid poverty by accepting the technological revolution that is taking place now."

Everyone is unemployed when they retire. You can, however, then let your money do your work for you. Before retirement, start investing in a 401k, 403(B) or individual retirement

plan. A mere \$166 dollars a month can compound to six figures in a short time if you start today and retire at age sixty-five.

The fact that central banks started lowering interest rates last November means any U.S. economic recovery or re-acceleration the cuts generate is unlikely before late this year or even in 1997. This means you have the opportunity to acquire financial assets like stocks at a cheap price before economic growth moves equities to higher grounds in the years to come.

Wall Street Dow Jones are still projecting the Dow Jones averages to reach 7,000 by the year 2001. The cyclical sector for stock investment even includes the technology groups. The

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Senator Bradley hosts final student athlete conference

PISCATAWAY—Senator Bill Bradley (D-NJ) was recently joined 500 top high school scholar-athletes from across New Jersey and a panel of amateur and professional athletes for his fourteenth and final annual Student-Athlete Conference.

Bradley designed the seminar fourteen years ago to help high school seniors anticipate and prepare for the academic and athletic pressures they will face in college. The student-ath-

letes participating in the conference have been recruited by NCAA Division I, II and III colleges and universities nationwide.

"As a former student-athlete, I know first-hand the time constraints and pressures these young people face. In college, [they] will have to exercise self-discipline and use all of the resources made available to them to cope with the dual demands of sports and academics. I want to help

high school seniors establish their priorities before they start school," Bradley said.

"The reality is that only one in a hundred students will play their sport professionally, so young people must prepare for a fulfilling career off the playing field by taking advantage of as many educational opportunities as they can," he said.

The speaking panel included Moderator Kevin Bannon, Coach of

the Men's Basketball team at Rider University; Millicent Gertrude, Assistant Coach of the Women's Basketball team at St. Peter's College; and Mike Wasko, a member of the 1988 U.S. Olympic Bobsled Team. Several other amateur and professional athletes also sat on the panel.

The seminars are part of Bradley's ongoing effort to encourage a better balance between athletics and education at the university level. Bradley

authored the Student Right to Know Act, requiring colleges and universities to report graduation rates of their scholarship athletes and make this information available to prospective students. Bradley also sponsored legislation creating a "National Student-Athlete Day."

"Sports can add immeasurably to the college experience. The skills one develops playing on a team can be carried into any arena. However,

sports are only part of an education, not a substitute for it," Bradley said. As an undergraduate at Princeton University, Senator Bradley was a three-time basketball All-American and won the Sullivan Award as the country's outstanding amateur athlete. In 1964, he was captain of the U.S. men's basketball team that won the gold medal at the Tokyo Olympics and from 1967-77 he played professional basketball with the New York Knicks.

Checkmates

Continued from page 7

of his younger tenants. "They act like they have it all," states Frank. Although begrimed, the admirable, industrious father and entrepreneur believes he has the foresight to make a difference, if provided with Lady's resources. "If I had the chance they had, I would not be working in a factory," continues Frank. "I would be owning one."

By simple observation, Frank is able to appreciate the difficulties mulling between his sonatized, young upstairs tenants. "He [Sylvester] played by Peter Jay Fernandez has got the whole world open to him and can't get a hold of his love," notes Frank.

Both Mattie and Frank are committed to the African adage that, "It takes a village to raise a child." This indicated by their private, courtesy sessions with each one of the young people living upstairs from them.

To hinder Laura from engaging in an adulterous relationship, with a

potential lover whom Laura feels is compassionate and understanding, Mattie advises, "Hunters are always listeners. Only after they have been well-fed do they start to fall asleep. Because people with problems think they can add by subtracting, but end up multiplying."

The outcome of the two couples' marriages are diametrically opposite. Laura faults her dwindling marital relationship on her abortion. Contrarily, Mattie, who once faces a disappointing miscarriage offers a different opinion on the parent. "In my days children were a parent's glory, today they are a trap."

Checkmates should be a pre-requisite for marital unions and unfulfilled dissolutions. It is a mandatory production to see for a successful relationship. Additionally, it is an enriching and rewarding opportunity to survey real relationships, gain invaluable experience without absorbing the exorbitant expenses of a marital counsel.

Corruption trial

Continued from page 1

newsman whose offer to help uproot corruption was accepted by prosecutors.

The third man, Bobbie Cottle, a former New Jersey police officer, Essex County jail warden and president of the Newark chapter of NAACP, was not aware of the undercover operation, but was used for his contacts with political insiders, such as Grant.

The jury is to hear a secret recording made of a meeting between Harris and Grant, Cottle and Barry at an Orange restaurant two weeks before the primary, when as he was leaving the meeting, Harris said to Barry, "You can't wish me luck; you've got to give it to me," Smith related.

Grant and the others are on other recordings, he said. "During those meetings, they sold the office of mayor for campaign contributions," Smith said.

The prosecution said no money was ever given because the cash was earmarked for "get-out-the-vote" operations, and Justice Department officials did not want their undercover operation to influence the election.

Harris lawyer Raymond A. Brown said his client is as merely "trying hard to please" and now finds himself "galled for an 'obliging and decent' nature."

"My client never asked for anything, or anyone else, for a dime," Brown said. "He never took anything."

Brown attempted to portray the undercover agent as a white man out to entrap black officials, but was interrupted by Smith's objection. Following a sidebar conference with the lawyers, U.S. District Judge John C. Lifford told the jurors that it is a fact that the agent is white and that Harris and Grant are black.

Fingerprinting

Continued from page 1

Judge Rudolph N. Hawkins Jr., presiding judge of the Superior Court's Family Court. According to Insom prosecutor Edward M. Neely, over 200 items have been processed since the program started in Elizabeth on April 1. He reported that this is used to improve identification of offenders and to create a data base to help solve juvenile crimes.

Juveniles are being processed by members of the sheriff's Identification Bureau at the George W. Heilich Juvenile Quarters in

Elizabeth. Members of the public defender's office have expressed concerns about what would happen to the photos and fingerprints of juveniles who are acquitted or misidentified.

According to White all information taken from a juvenile would be kept by the county. There is law which was passed in 1994 permits, but does not require counties to fingerprint and photograph of offenders.

Before any adjustments, the law allowed

fingerprinting to be done only by state authorities and required that a juvenile's fingerprints be destroyed after the case was resolved. That information would now be kept on file.

According to Executive Assistant Prosecutor Robert P. O'Leary, Essex County uses the same identification process which was very helpful in finding an Irvington teenager who tried to run down a Union Township police officer in a stolen car. O'Leary is legal advisor to the county and state juvenile officers associations.

Thick and thin

Continued from page 4

do while you're getting your act together. Do we fight the system so much that we're no longer able to get employment to feed ourselves or our offspring? Do we lay dormant in hopes that you will one day come, or do we go on?

Now we're at it time in history when things are going better than ever for many black women. Prosperity hangs at the door while you're only knocking. You've got to come correct and if I can help you I will. But you have to tell me what you need. I want so badly to let you in but so many things are already inside. I know for our future to be secure. I must let you in and I will.

When you do enter, please come prepared to be the man I know you are.

Don't half step. Be strong, respectful and courteous. Be honest, playful and nurturing. Be considerate, responsible and accountable. Don't ever hit me or raise your voice. When you have something you want to say, we'll talk, and I will listen.

We will raise our children to be all of these things and when we grow old together, we will realize that our time was well worth the wait. In the spirit of our ancestors, you will have become the back in my bone and I the spirit in your soul and our future will thrive, together.

Sylvia Perry is managing editor of the Jacksonville Free Press.

Health Center

Continued from page 1

ents by providing a free shuttle bus to be operated by Anaker and Portfield when the center shifts care from the old facilities on May 28. Six hours of stops are available for all clients and will run Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Saturday 8 to 11 a.m.

HUD

Continued from page 1

Lane's organization is a key participant in the approach to save Hill Manor, which involves the largest private-investment tax-credit plan ever conceived for a single HUD administered housing project. Under the plan, a private/public partnership would undertake the revitalization of the complex, which has languished in default for 12 years.

Sparrow Construction Corp., a New York City construction firm which specializes in affordable urban housing, put together the deal and would serve as developer of the renovation effort and distributor of tax credits for the project.

"Instead of producing a positive cash flow for the building, HUD seems willing to take a \$50 million hit to demolish the building, relocate its tenants, build the new townhouses and continue to cover Hill Manor's mortgage and carrying costs," states Randolph J. Silverstein, Sparrow's president.

Fireman acquitted

Continued from page 1

intent to distribute within a school zone of 1000 ft. Blanding was suspended without pay and his van was confiscated.

Blanding reported that he had loaned his van to Housman and had just went to retrieve it when they were stopped. He stated that he had no idea that Housman had narcotics in his vehicle, and was selling it.

In a trial that lasted a week, and a jury deliberation of over a day, Blanding, former president of the Volcanos Firefighters' club was found innocent of all charges and Housman was found guilty.

"The verdict was not based upon technicality," said Smith, "but rather the cold, hard, facts and fortunately for Mr. Blanding, justice prevailed."

Smith noted that his client will be applying for reinstatement of his position with the Fire Department and hopes that the situation will be taken care of quickly.

Babe Ruth League

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participate in an organized, parental supervised activity."

League organizers are working to increase female participation in the softball segment of the league. Softball Coach Beverly Shelton, a lifelong resident of Plainfield, said it's important for young girls to participate in sports.

"If these girls show an ounce of courage, it's easy to build on what's there," Shelton said. "Teaching girls

is fundamental in developing them as young ladies."

According to Shelton the girls do not have a sponsor yet. Teams are small but the children who are involved are very enthusiastic about playing. Each child that wants to play must have passing marks in school and must complete a progress report.

McCray, a former Plainfield High School Special Education teacher has

his whole family involved in the league. His children Perscia, Malcolm and Amara play on the teams and his wife Darlene is concessions manager.

"I watched my father and his friends start a little league in Newark. It was natural for me to help out my community. We're reaching out to the community for help as sponsors." Everyday games take place at Rock Avenue and Mt. Campbell fields.

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